



MEETING MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF MONO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Regular Meetings: The First, Second,
and Third Tuesday of each month

REGULAR MEETING

County Courthouse
Bridgeport, California 93517

January 15, 2008

9:00 a.m. Meeting Called to Order by Chairwoman Bauer

Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Farnetti

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Supervisor Reid reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Supervisor Reid was absent.

Supervisor Hunt reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the Mammoth Lakes Housing Board of Directors meeting on December 11th. Aspen Village Condos are being constructed and will be available for occupancy by summer. The Manzanita affordable housing units are available and will be occupied next month. To date, MLH has built 78 units that are occupied and 48 units that are currently being sold.
2. Attended the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments meeting on December 14th. Many items of interest are discussed at these meetings, such as transportation issues and environmental issues.
3. Attended the ESTA meeting on December 14th. Discussed the new adjustment to fares; received an update about the search for a new executive director; elected a new chair and vice chair (Chairwoman Bauer will be the new chair); set the meetings to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month; extended the contract for the administrative director; and discussed the RFP for short-range transit plans. The response to the RFP was poor and responses didn't meet the criteria.
4. Attended the Mammoth Lakes Housing Board of Directors meeting on January 3rd. Discussed potential future projects, including opportunities in Crowley Lake. The Tavern Road project was pulled due to financial problems, however, money may be available so the project can move forward.

5. A consultant to the Senate Local Government committee provided a report on revenues and responsibilities for local taxing agencies. The report outlines the taxes local agencies can utilize and the tax powers they hold. The Town is suggesting two new possible taxes; the County may want to peruse this information and understand the issue better.
6. Kudos to Mammoth Hospital, which has been treating 50-90 patients a day. It is reassuring to know the area has a quality hospital facility to address a wide variety of issues.
7. Reiterated that Mono County is a great place to live.

Supervisor Hazard reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Regarding the flooding issue in Chalfant, water seeped inside two homes and was up against another home. Currently working with the property owner that experienced the most damage; there was also significant erosion on the hillside. There appears to be no other issues at this time. The flooding is a new problem and is not part of the flood-channel issues. Hopefully the catchment basin at the landfill will prevent future flooding.
2. Attended the management meeting on the 9th.
3. Attended the Chalfant Fire Commissioners meeting on the 10th. They agree to concepts about EMS service, and they want to offer a part-time ALS system, so the County may be able to get coverage in the area without taking the full step to a county-wide system. The ambulance may come back to the County system and be operated like White Mountain. The issue needs further discussion, but this was a good meeting and parties will work towards a mutually agreeable system.
4. Held Chalfant office hours. (1) Met with Mary Miller from IMAAA and talked about a needs assessment. Only two people are using the meal service, so this is not cost effective; there are other needs. Asked Mary to review the needs and clientele. (2) Updated two citizens on County business. (3) Obtained a survey from Kelly Garcia about playground equipment and forwarded it to the community; received one comment so far. (4) One citizen complained about pollution caused by idling semi trucks on Highway 6, especially during storms. Asked for this issue to be put on the RPAC agenda so the community can discuss it prior to bringing it before the Board. There may be current laws about idling engines, but the community should discuss this issue first.
5. Attended LTC yesterday (Supervisor Farnetti updated the Board). Regarding Crowley Lake, there was an issue about a road closure from Sherwin Grade to June Lake Junction; no one knew the road was closed. The committee discussed how to notify the community about road closures. One possibility is to have Caltrans provide this information along with their information about current road conditions; Caltrans says their dispatchers are busy but they will discuss this suggestion internally.
6. Charlie Broten has officially retired. He did give a lot of time and effort; would like to see the Board acknowledge him with a proclamation.

Supervisor Farnetti reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the local Solid Waste Task Force meeting in December; all landfill inspections were good for the month. One issue is with Pumice Valley Landfill; the state wants it to be re-permitted or closed; it does not qualify as a trickling landfill even though it is so designated. Evan Nikirk is doing a cost analysis (keeping the landfill open vs. closing it) and will bring this information to the Board to get direction. Benton Crossing is permitted until 2023; this will be the only operating landfill in the County if Pumice Valley closes. This issue, including consideration of another landfill location, will need to be addressed at some point in the future. It is important to get the Town on board with a decision.
2. Attended the department head meeting last Wednesday; CAO will give a report.
3. Attended LTC yesterday. (1) Elected a new chair and vice chair. (2) Amended the work plan for Mammoth Lakes. Sent a letter of recommendation for the blue-print planning process

that Caltrans is promoting, which is supposed to lead to more community involvement as well as consider County general plans and needs. (3) Discussed the High Point curve around Topaz. The original budget of \$18 million was revised to \$44 million due to a lot of cut and fill; this work will impact the north end of the County due to road closures. Directed Caltrans staff to determine if the project as proposed is necessary. Blinking lights and rumble strips have been installed in order to slow traffic; will look at scaling down the project. (4) There was a staff presentation regarding the STIP/RTIP draft for \$15 million. (5) Supervisor Hazard gave a presentation on the Crowley Lake service radio, suggesting that Caltrans integrate their messages into the system. Hazard also made a presentation about the Oasis cell phone issue.

4. Received an email from CSAC about the Governor's 2008-09 budget, including some of the impacts of the state's budget problem (the projected deficit for next year is \$14.5 billion). The Governor declared a fiscal emergency, and will initiate a 45-day special session to address the situation. Potential impacts to the County include a reduction in funding for medical programs, health and human services, funding of the Williamson Act, small rural sheriff's program, and full funding for Prop 42 (local gas tax subvention revenues may be delayed by five months). The Governor wants to implement a surcharge or fee of 1.25% on homeowners' insurance policies to help support fire suppression by Calfire.
5. Doug Simpson, RESTCO, is developing the project in the Sierra Business Park and had some concerns. Directed him to Mark Magit or Larry Johnston.

Chairwoman Bauer reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Interviews for the ESTA executive director will take place after January 25th.
2. Regarding the Clark Tract issue, the consulting group (SCI) has provided a great deal of work for the \$5,000 spent.
3. YARTS is moving forward; there is legislative support for a planning grant for a short-range transit plan.
4. PMC has been scoping out the Intrust project and holding stakeholder meetings.
5. Mary Canada presented the Local First program in Bishop. The child care suggestion got rave reviews but the issue is who will do the work.
6. Yosemite will be holding a user capacity program in February; the program will include 75 experts to discuss this subject. Chairwoman Bauer said she would like to go to the symposium, which is free; the only cost will be for lodging. This symposium will be very useful to issues coming to June Lake. The Board asked the Clerk to put this item on next week's agenda.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 1) CAO Report regarding Board Assignments (**David Wilbrecht**)
ACTION: Receive brief oral report by County Administrative Officer (CAO) regarding his activities.

David Wilbrecht, CAO, reported on the following issues and activities:

1. Attended the department manager meeting; the group has good ideas. Bob Garret is working on personnel action forms for the salary increases; Brian Muir is checking them. Garret is also working on PAFs for cell phones.
2. Attended the MAG meeting.
3. Followed up with IMAAA. Unless there are significant changes, the County may need to talk about whether or not to stay with IMAAA.

4. Met with the Health and Human Services management team to discuss impacts of the state budget.
5. Worked with the storm debriefing group.
6. Moving forward with employee recognition; this issue will come to the Board in the spring.
7. Met with owners of the Sierra Center Mall. They provided financial information and will report to the Town-County Liaison on Thursday.
8. The Novus software is being implemented.
9. Requested the Assessor's phone usage for 2007; will report to the Board at a future meeting.
10. Met with PMC on Friday.
11. Will be in Sacramento on Wednesday attending a CAO meeting. Part of the discussion will include state budget impacts.

2) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Special meeting of January 2, 2008.

M08-009 *(Hazard/Hunt, 3-0; Bauer, abstain, Reid absent)*

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session from 9:04 a.m. through 10:00 a.m.; break from 10:00 a.m. through 10:05 a.m. Reconvened at 10:05 a.m. Reconvened closed session at 1:17 p.m. through 1:40 p.m.; reconvened regular meeting at 1:40 p.m.

- 3) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Bob Garret, Brian Muir, Marshall Rudolph, and Rick Scholl. Employee organization: Mono County Sheriff's Officers Association (aka Deputy Sheriffs Association).
- 4) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, Brian Muir, Rita Sherman, and Mark Magit. Employee organization: International Union of Operating Engineers, Stationary Local 39, AFL-CIO (aka Mono County Public Employees).
- 5) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS. Government Code section 54957.6. Agency designated representatives: David Wilbrecht, Marshall Rudolph, Robert Garret, and Brian Muir. Unrepresented employees: Assistant County Administrative Officer.

The Board had nothing to report from closed session.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/EMERGING ISSUES

Lynda Salcido reported on the following:

1. Dennis Lampson will retain 10% of his time with Mono County through the transition (about two days per month). He has prepared a report concerning issues of environmental health, and has outlined the issues and their status. At this point, the department doesn't yet know what they don't know. There are still two other state employees working with environmental health.
2. Currently ascertaining state budget issues to determine how this will impact programs.

Evan Nikirk reported on the following:

1. Distributed an updated emergency call-out contact list. The list will be sent to fire districts, the Sheriff's Office and emergency response departments (such as social services). This is a solution to communication problems experienced during emergency issues (such as the recent snow storm). This list will allow Public Works employees to be contacted directly during emergency situations that involve Public Works.
2. Response to snow storm: In preparation of the storm, reassigned staff members to various areas in order to assist where needed. Each of the road districts, except Walker, had additional help (the storms in Walker tend to be less severe). Could have moved more crew members into the Crowley area but there was uncertainty about where the storm would hit hardest. Depending on snow conditions it takes time to clear out communities; crews spent last week keeping streets plowed. During the snow storm, the crew was working 14-16 hours every day to keep up with the snow. Supervisor Hazard said in Crowley the plowing was acceptable by Monday afternoon, but several days afterward, the roads were still not acceptable. Hazard had no qualms with the crew's work; there was just not enough manpower in the area. The issue regarding staff and equipment needs to be discussed in the future. Nikirk said in the future, he will reassess manpower needs in specific communities. He will also prepare an analysis regarding this issue, hopefully by the mid-year budget review. Nikirk said he is working with Caltrans on an MOU for county-wide exchange of services.

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a board member requests separate action on a specific item)

Board of Supervisors

- 6) Resolution of Appreciation for Gary Myers
ACTION: Approve resolution honoring Gary Myers for his years of service as Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Mono Healthcare District.
M08-010 *(Farnetti/Hunt, 4-0; Reid absent)*

REGULAR AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (INFORMATIONAL)

All items listed are available for review and are located in the Office of the Clerk of the Board

#	Received	Dated	From	Subject
7a)	1-3-08	12-30-07 (email)	Donnie Priest to Mono County Board of Supervisors	Renaming of a peak on the border of Yosemite Park and Mono County
7b)	1-7-08	12-20-07	Thomas Stephenson, Department of Fish and Game to Mono County Board of Supervisors	Report summarizing activities of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Program during July-September 2007
7c)	1-7-08	12-21-07	Dennis Lampson, Mono County Health Department—Environmental Health, to Mono County Board of Supervisors	Annual evaluation of Mono County's Small Water System Program for FY 2006-2007
7d)	1-7-08	12-30-07	Norm Kaufman to Mono County Board of Supervisors	Property Tax Bill

The Board pulled Items 7a, 7c, 7d.

Item 7a: Chairwoman Bauer said her father was involved in this rescue and has been communicating with Donnie Priest. This was a significant rescue effort, and the rescuers found Priest alive after five days (a search of this length was not usual at that time). Since then, searches are conducted for a much longer period. Marshall Rudolph, County Counsel, said the Board adopted a resolution supporting a proposal to name the peak Sharsmith Peak in honor of a forest ranger in Yosemite. Supervisor Farnetti said there were many groups supporting Sharsmith; he did not want to retract to Board's earlier decision. Supervisor Hazard said the peak in question was un-named for years until others stepped forward to rename it, so Priest could have asked many years ago for the peak to be renamed. Hazard supported the Board's prior position. Supervisor Hunt said he communicated with Priest and agreed that the rescue efforts should be recognized, but told him the Board isn't naming the peak, it is a federal decision. Hunt suggested to Priest that he contact the appropriate people. Chairwoman Bauer said the Board has sufficiently addressed this issue.

Item 7c: Supervisor Hunt said the report addresses a concern about the vacant position that resulted because of the County Environmental Health program. He asked staff to keep the Board informed. Supervisor Hazard said most of the issues addressed seem to be a failure at the state level; the County is on the right course. Lynda Salcido said Health and Human Services had not seen this report, but it is a yearly requirement. Chairwoman Bauer said the Board has not seen a reply from the state before. Salcido said she can discuss this issue better after reviewing the information; she is attending a meeting in Sacramento this week that will address these issues.

Item 7d: Brian Muir said he has had numerous conversations with Mr. Kaufman. The tax collector can waive penalties and interest in certain cases; Mr. Kaufman's case is not one of them. The

address provided by the property owner was incorrect. The Assessor's Office put it in correctly as listed on the deed, so the tax bills were sent. Whether or not a bill is received, the property owner is required to pay their taxes. Muir's office makes an effort to correct addresses, but they are not required to make an extensive effort to research bad addresses. Muir informed Mr. Kaufman that his office will not waive penalties; his only recourse is in a court of law.

Chairman Bauer acknowledged receipt of the correspondence.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

8a) Report by Deborah Hess, Regional Manager of Public Affairs, Southern California Edison, regarding New Technology and Infrastructure Upgrades in the Eastern Sierra (Deborah Hess)

ACTION: (1) Receive a report and comments from Deborah Hess regarding new technology and infrastructure upgrades in the Eastern Sierra. (2) Direct staff on Board's preferences and next steps if any, regarding Ms. Hess's report.

Deborah Hess addressed projects specific to the Eastern Sierra (handout on file):

- Transmission and Distribution Upgrades: Will include Lundy Lake and June Lake substations.
- Energy Efficiency Program and Services: Would like to open the program to an Eastern Sierra Regional partnership including Mono, Inyo, Bishop and Mammoth; will contact the County to determine the level of interest. Would also like to include DWP and Sierra Pacific in order to include the Walker/Coleville area. One of the programs in Mammoth was a refrigerator program (picking up old refrigerators and moving toward energy efficient units).
- Hired additional planners to better meet the County's needs. Have been hiring employees from the local market.
- Smart Connect Program: A new meter system to be deployed this year. This meter is designed to "talk" to appliances and reduce load-time during the peak hours of 12:00-6:00 p.m.; this meter will help customers control the cost of their bills. The meter will also "talk" to the system and let SCE know when there is a power outage.
- Regarding rates and increases, there have been no increases over the last six months. Bills have increased because of a higher use of electric heat combined with the last rate increase about a year ago.

Regarding the smart connect program, Supervisor Hunt said there is a feeling that control is being taken away from the consumer. Hess said all meters will become smart connect, but the system is controlled by the consumer; SCE will not be determining how much power they can use. Hunt asked about a new movement towards solar power. Hess said more customers are becoming interested in solar, but there still seems to be a cost issue involved that keeps people from pursuing it. Hunt asked if the underground fund for utilities is still being funded. Hess said it is and Mono County has money available.

Supervisor Hazard said there are power outage problems in Hammil and Benton, and asked if there are plans to resolve the issue. Hess said technical issues would need to be discussed with a planner; she suggested holding a community meeting with the planner so he can answer questions. Hazard asked Scott Burns to coordinate with Hess to agendize a meeting for the Benton RPAC.

Scott Burns asked about the timing of the June Lakes substation; he said SCE may want to work with the County and IntraWest as part of the specific planning process. Hess said this project is in the budget for 2008.

8b)

Board Member Reports (Supervisor Bauer, Chair)

ACTION: (1) Discuss the current format used to make Board Member reports. (2) Consider changing to a written format to more accurately reflect Board Members' activities, enhance recordkeeping, and provide better information to the public. (3) Provide direction to staff.

Chairwoman Bauer said the issue of changing the format of Board reports was discussed during the last agenda review committee meeting; she was interested in the Board's feedback so put this on the agenda. She emphasized that a new format would still include a verbal report of the most important items.

Supervisors Hazard, Hunt, and Farnetti expressed the following opinions:

- A written report seems to be busy work, and would not be as timely as verbal reports.
- Verbal reports allow the Board to communicate what is happening in their districts.
- The current system seems to be working fine, and minutes accurately reflect the reports.
- Board reports allow Supervisors to obtain feedback about issues without violating the Brown Act.
- Verbal reports allow issues to be presented to the press.

The Board decided to maintain the current format.

PUBLIC HEALTH

9)

M08-011

Out-of-State Travel for Dr. Rick Johnson, Public Health Officer (Lynda Salcido)

ACTION: Approve out-of-state travel for Dr. Rick Johnson to participate in an expert panel of the Western New York Public Health Alliance Advanced Practice Center (WNYPHA APC) to develop planning guidelines to assist communities in addressing population surge issues in rural areas following urban disasters.

(Hunt/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent)

Lynda Salcido: Public Health is still involved in emergency preparedness work, and Dr. Johnson is very busy doing a number of things.

Dr. Johnson: Invited to participate on an expert panel that will focus on the issue of evacuation, both out of and in to rural areas. The Western New York Public Health Alliance APC will fund Johnson's attendance. Various exercises will be conducted to discuss evacuation scenarios, and workshops will assist rural communities in developing a tool kit to anticipate and plan for evacuation needs. Mono County needs to anticipate what would happen if the area gets an influx of 100,000 to 200,000 people.

MENTAL HEALTH

- 10) Contract for Mental Health Services Act Funding (**Ann Gimpel**)
M08-012 **ACTION:** Approve County entry into a proposed contract (contract #07-77326-000) with the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) for Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Supports funding. (2) Authorize Ann Gimpel, Ph.D., Mental Health Director to sign, administer, and act as liaison, to include signature on future contractual amendments, for said contract on behalf of Mono County.
(Hunt/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent)

Ann Gimpel: This contract is similar to the contract approved in April, but includes \$17,000 more in funding support.

CLERK-RECORDER

- 11) Request for Out-of-State Travel (**Lynda Roberts**)
M08-013 **ACTION:** Approve request for a member of the Clerk-Recorder's Office to attend a one-day seminar in Reno, Nevada, on February 14, 2008; the fiscal impact is \$183.84.
(Farnetti/Hazard, 4-0; Reid absent)

Lynda Roberts: This seminar will focus on how to work better under pressure. Because the Clerk's Office has a small staff and a big workload, there are many occasions when the working environment becomes stressful. Roberts views training as an investment, and said she encourages her staff members to seek out training that will improve both their technical and interpersonal skills. Even though this training is out of state, Reno is the closest location.

~ LUNCH RECESS ~

Break from 12:10 p.m. through 1:08 p.m.; reconvened at 1:08 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one spoke.

PUBLIC HEARING DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

- 12) Social Security Number Truncation Program (**Brian Muir and Lynda Roberts**)
R08-03 **ACTION:** Adopt **Resolution R08-03** authorizing County Clerk/Recorder to collect an additional \$1 fee for the first page of every recorded document for the sole purpose of implementing a Social Security Number Truncation Program as authorized by AB 1168.
(Hazard/Farnetti, 4-0; Reid absent)

Brian Muir: Last year the Governor signed AB 1168 requiring clerks to redact social security numbers on recorded documents going forward and going back to 1980. To fund this program, legislation provides for \$1 to be added to the cost of recording the first page of every document. This legislation also requires the finance department to audit the use of the funds and report to the Board. The estimated cost to go forward with this program is \$2,995 for a software upgrade; going back from July 2000 to 1980 presents a major problem since records are not in electronic format. The software vendor has not yet determined a solution. The additional \$1 will produce about \$10,000 per year; Muir will keep close track of this fee so the Clerk's Office doesn't collect too much.

Lynda Roberts addressed a question about the amount of staff time required. The time required going forward should be minimal because there are not many documents that include social security numbers. It is unknown how much time will be required to redact social security numbers from documents recorded between 1980 and July 2000; there were nearly 400,000 pages recorded between that time. This fee can be used to help pay for staff time. However, the Clerk's Office can't pay for the program until there is money available, so the fee needs to be collected now in order to build a pool of funds.

Chairwoman Bauer opened the public hearing. No one spoke. Chairwoman Bauer closed the public hearing.

ADJOURNED: 1:40 p.m.

***Reconvene Evening Meeting in
Mammoth Lakes
Suite Z, Town Council Chambers
Minaret Village Mall (437 Old Mammoth Road)***

6:00 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Harvey, Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Sugimura.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Jack Winkler addressed various issues: (1) After 20 years, it is time to reallocate property tax dollars; a neutral agency should do this. (2) Extend fishing season to December 31st and close fishing for four months. (3) Lessen the mule deer slaughter on Highway 395 by building bridges for deer and elk crossings. (4) Concerning sage grouse, rather than shooting 200 per year, shoot 100 and transplant 100. (5) Regarding coyote attacks, there are about 100 attacks annually on cats, and 5-10 attacks on dogs; one child per year is attacked.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

13) Resolution of Appreciation Recognizing Gary Myers' Years of Service (**Board Members**)

ACTION: In conjunction with the Town Council, present Gary Myers with a Resolution of Appreciation honoring his years of service.

Town Councilmember Kirk Stapp led the presentation. He relayed a personal story about the great care given to his wife when she was in the hospital. In his experience with the hospital, he has received a high level of service and the hospital provides a high level of service to the community. Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Bauer read the resolution, and Mayor Harvey presented the resolution to Mr. Myers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

14) Presentation by Bruce Kinney, Deputy Regional Manager, CDFG (**Dan Lyster and Bruce Kinney**)

ACTION: Receive information provided by Bruce Kinney (California Department of Fish and Game—Bishop Office) regarding fisheries related issues in Mono County.

Bruce Kinney: The agency has been dealing with lawsuits regarding the fish stocking program and has also been working with Senator Cogdill on AB7. Even though the agency is not meeting established goals, these are target goals and depend on the ability to meet infrastructure requirements. Kinney said they anticipate meeting 2008 production goals in the Eastern Sierra; there may be a slight increase in production. He highlighted the following and addressed concerns:

- Release of allotment information to the public. A list of waters being stocked is provided weekly by press release. Their objective is to provide enough fish; poundage does not reflect the number of fish being stocked. The agency may stock bigger fish, but reduced numbers of fish. They anticipate a potential increase of about 20,000 *pounds* (not 20,000 more fish); Inyo County receives some of the poundage.
- Operations changed significantly last year because of the mud snail. The mud snail was found in the head waters of Hot Creek Hatchery. Water is considered to be "positive" when the mud snail is found. The current accepted protocol is to stock water already positive with the mud snail. Hot Creek will reduce the poundage stocked, and fish will go into limited waters; this will augment fish from Fish Springs. The only new site found to contain the mud snail is Rush Creek. The species is prolific and can change over time to adapt to new environments. Installing new equipment at Hot Creek to reduce the problem is an expensive proposition, and would have to be monitored to watch for reintroduction.

- Some of the waters stocked last year were close to meeting AB7; other waters had low numbers of fish. It will be hard to meet the numbers of 2006 due to the mud snail. Some waters have a high demand by a low percentage of user groups; this is expensive.
- The agency does not announce publicly when waters will be stocked so fish have time to spread throughout the water and adjust. However, they do make an exception for certain situations such as a derby.
- The mud snail was found below the American River hatchery, but has not been found in the hatchery. They don't transfer catchable fish from the hatchery. There should be a concern about the mud snail with any aquaculture operation in the Eastern Sierra. The distribution of Conway Ranch fish remains the same. A pathologist has spoken with Dan Lyster and Conway Ranch; there needs to be a clear understanding about the mud snail issue.
- Regarding cage culture operations, they finish growing the fish in a cage but don't hold them in a cage once they are ready for release.
- Scheduled deliveries may be delayed some times due to aging vehicles (stocking trucks). Also, engineers from the Department of General Services plan to conduct an audit of hatchery equipment.
- The Eastern Sierra is leading the way in using outside assistance, but various issues make it difficult to have the public help raise fish. There are other things the public can do, such as augmenting the fish food fund.
- State-wide allotments of fish are based on a variety of things: the size of the water, distribution across the state, accessibility by trucks, water quality, demand, use, and historical allotment amount. There are only so many fish to be distributed and the agency can't take fish from elsewhere to meet a higher use in the Eastern Sierra.
- Need to look at the big picture, including improving hatchery capabilities while still meeting demand, and considering how the mud snail is affecting natural fish reproduction. The snail has a blanketing ability in a waterway, which causes problems for the natural species. Planting a fish from positive water to negative water can introduce mud snails into a clean water supply.
- Regarding the state's budget for next fiscal year, there were no reductions in funding for operations, and so far, no hatcheries are being considered for closure.
- Regarding communication, it would be helpful to have specific points of contact in the Town and County, it would be helpful to set up quarterly meetings, and helpful to consider ways to disseminate information to a wider audience.

Audience comments and questions:

- Dan Lyster said there are no mud snails on Conway Ranch, so they can stock from Conway into mud snail negative waters.
- Question about sensitive fish at Hot Creek Hatchery. Kinney: CDFG has taken measures to make sure sensitive fish (such as chubs) aren't at risk. Eastern Sierra hatcheries outside Hot Creek are negative for the mud snail.
- Concern expressed about the mud snail being 100-200 yards from Fish Springs. Kinney: It is not in the head waters; however, there is a risk for every hatchery that the snail will get carried in. It is possible to minimize the potential of the mud snail moving in to the outflow at Hot Creek; this will take time and money.
- Question about predators for the mud snail. Kinney: There are no predators in this environment; introducing a predator would create other problems and could make the situation worse.

The Board of Supervisors and Town Council suggested forming a subcommittee and holding another joint meeting during the second week of April.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

- 15) Report from Robert Clark, Town Manager, Town of Mammoth Lakes (**Robert Clark**)
ACTION: (1) Receive report from Town Manager, Robert Clark, regarding Sierra Center Mall, Civic Center Land Acquisition, Issues Concerning the Assessor, Recreation Center, Airport EIS, Housing, June Lake Resort, and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. (2) Provide staff with any direction for follow-up action.

Robert Clark: The Town-County Liaison Committee will meet to talk about the issues listed above, and can include the fish issue. Clark gave a brief update about the following:

- Airport EIS: The comment period closed Friday; they are now in the phase of responding to comments. None of the comments were unexpected. The final EIS will be published in late March. The bid is out for improvements to the runway and terminal building.
- Sierra Center Mall. The owner of the building has submitted a more complete proposal. The Council and Board need to do due diligence on this issue. Clark will meet with the CAO and bring this issue back to the Board and Council.

Supervisor Bauer provided an update about the recall of the County Assessor. Approximately 2,000 signatures were collected and the elections clerk has until January 25th to verify the signatures. After the certification is presented to the Board, the Board has two weeks to call for an election.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- 16) Report by Sheriff Scholl regarding the Storm Event from January 2, 2008, through January 6, 2008 (**Sheriff Richard Scholl**)
ACTION: (1) Receive verbal report by Sheriff Scholl regarding the recent storm event. (2) Direct staff or take action the Board deems appropriate.

Sheriff Scholl provided a synopsis of the action taken in response to the recent storm event. Reports received from the National Weather Service said travel during the storm would be too dangerous due to high winds. The County would not have been able to get any help from Southern California due to weather conditions there. This weather warning was sent throughout western California and San Diego County. The Reverse 911 system was determined to be the best way to alert the community and remind them to prepare for the possibility of a severe winter storm; the message recommended being prepared for three days, which is the same general preparedness message given in the event of any emergency. This message was put out over a three-day period of time, with an 83% success ratio throughout the County. Additional messages went out to other areas in the County to warn of potential flooding. The storm brought high winds, large amounts of snow, flooding, road closures and power outages in the County, and a tractor-trailer rig was blown off the road near Conway Summit. The County had few problems because people were prepared. In prior years, lives were lost during a storm like this. Because of the potential of a storm such as this, public safety needs to be taken into consideration. The message was intended to get people to stay off the roads. The Reverse 911 system is a great system, and saved lives in San Diego County during the recent fires. The Governor has now mandated that counties have this system.

The Town Council and Board of Supervisors agreed with the Sheriff's report and supported his decision to use Reverse 911 to warn people.

ADJOURNED: 8:00 p.m.

Mono County Board of Supervisors will meet in special session on **January 22, 2008**, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, County Courthouse, Bridgeport, California.

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